

**Date:** June 8, 2016

**To:** Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager  
**From:** Karmisha R. Wallace, Senior Assistant to the City Manager  
**Subject:** Appointment to Civilian Police Review Board

### **Executive Summary**

The Civilian Police Review Board is a nine member board. All current members have been appointed by the City Manager and confirmed by the City Council. A member of the Civilian Police Review Board has resigned so the purpose of this item is to fill the vacancy created by that resignation. The City Council is being asked to confirm the City Manager's recommendation to the Civilian Police Review Board.

### **Recommendation**

That the City Council confirms the City Manager's appointment of Cassandra R. Johnson to the Civilian Police Review Board

### **Background**

The Civilian Police Review Board was established in 1998 to serve in an advisory capacity to the City Manager. The Board is comprised of nine individuals who must all:

- be at least 21 years old
- reside in corporate City limits consistently for three years prior to appointment
- be current on local property taxes at the time of application and throughout term
- not have A1, 1, 2 misdemeanor or felony convictions

Background checks are performed on appointees. Civilian Police Review Board members are required to maintain strict confidentiality and:

- complete the Durham Citizen Police Academy;
- complete training/orientation on legal issues surrounding arrest, search and investigation in North Carolina (provided by staff from the City Attorney's Office and Durham Police Department); and
- complete 16 hours of a "Ride Along"

Civilian Police Review Board members serve four-year terms and are compensated at a rate of \$25 per meeting. The Board meets at least once per quarter.

### **Issues and Analysis**

The Board's mandate is to determine whether the Professional Standards Division of the Durham Police Department investigated a complaint in an appropriate manner; specifically,

whether the Police Department abused its discretion in the conduct of the investigation. As prescribed in State law, Board members have access to investigation-related information; therefore, it is imperative that members remain impartial and maintain strict confidentiality.

The Board serves in an advisory capacity to the City Manager by providing feedback and recommendations on any observations made in their review of cases. The Board will also continue to assist with community-police relations by hosting community forums and presenting information on the Civilian Police Review Board at PAC and neighborhood meetings.

There is currently one vacancy on the Civilian Police Review Board which resulted from a resignation. The vacancy was advertised by the City Clerk's Office twice and nine (9) applications were forwarded to the City Manager for consideration. Five (5) applicants were interviewed and Cassandra R. Johnson is being recommended for appointment to the Board. Ms. Johnson is an African American female who resides in PAC 1 and currently works as a Software Engineer. Ms. Johnson's Application for the Civilian Police Review Board has been attached for additional information.

The below individuals currently serve on the Civilian Police Review Board:

NAME	RACE	GENDER	PAC
Jeffrey Clark	African American	Male	3
Kelli Dugan	Caucasian	Female	3
Rachel Green	African American	Female	1
David Harris	African American	Male	2
DeWarren Langley	African American	Male	3
David Smith	Caucasian	Male	3
Susan Veasey	Caucasian	Female	3
Cynthia Wells	Caucasian	Female	2

### **Alternatives**

The City Council could elect not to confirm the individual being recommended by the City Manager. If that decision is made, the City Manager would ask the City Clerk to re-advertise the vacancy, interview additional applicants, and make another recommendation.

### **Financial Impact**

The confirmation of a Civilian Police Review Board member does not have a financial impact on the City. Board members are compensated at a rate of \$25.00 for each regular meeting attended, and payments are made twice a year.

### **SDBE Summary**

Not Applicable

### **Attachments**

Civilian Police Review Board Ballot

Cassandra R. Johnson Application for Civilian Police Review Board